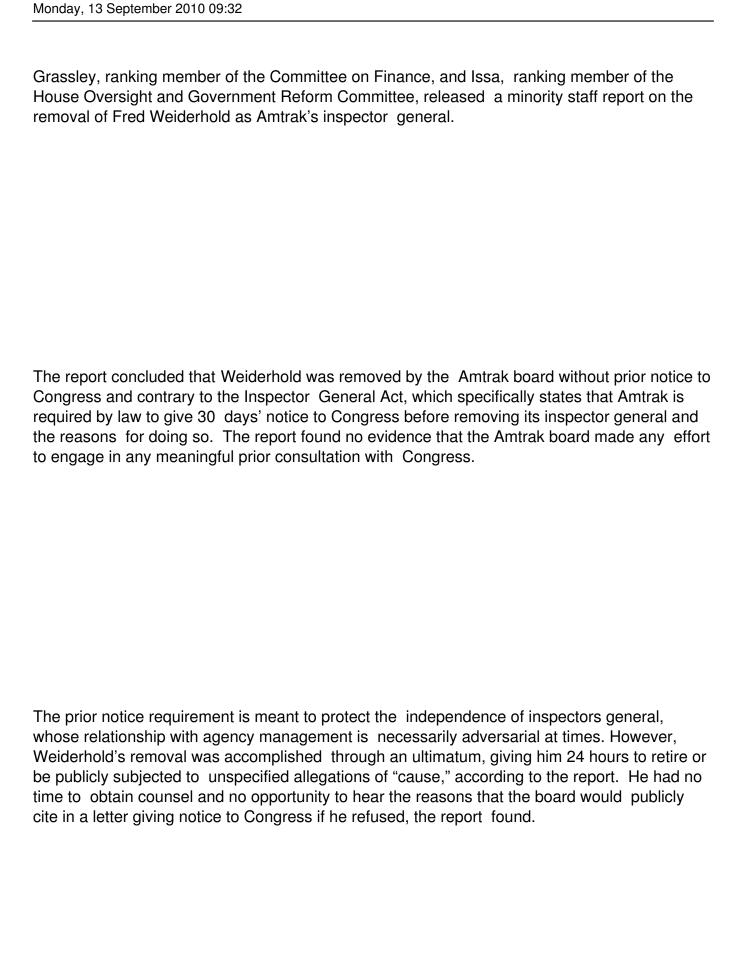
<b>WASHINGTON</b> – A report released today by Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Darrell Issa concludes that the Amtrak board removed the agency inspector general without prior notice to Congress, as required, and despite the inspector general's effective track record of "exposing waste, fraud, and abuse at the highest levels within Amtrak."
"Amtrak failed to comply with the Inspector General Act for way too long," Grassley said. "Forcing its Inspector General out of office without notice or consultation with Congress is only the latest example. Naming an interim inspector general from Amtrak management with no relevant experience only added insult to injury. All of this undermined the independence of the Office of Inspector General. Like any entity that receives billions of tax dollars, Amtrak needs independent oversight, and I hope this controversy has helped Amtrak learn that valuable lesson."
"Amtrak interfered with and ultimately decided to get rid of its Inspector General for the worst possible reason: to stop an investigation," Issa said. "Inspectors General can't be effective if they believe looking for waste and abuse could cost them their job. It's clear Amtrak has problems that could ultimately require action by Congress."



September 13, 2010 - The Removal of the Inspector General for The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)

Exhibits 1-7

Exhibits 8-15

Exhibits 16-29